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INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY 5767  
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY 4037  
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SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA DAS R.SCHMIERER, NEA/I A.BONSU  
STATE ALSO FOR EAP AND EB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: EAID EAGR PREL AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN AID AGENCY CONDUCTING SURVEY IN IRAQ RE  
PRT PARTICIPATION

REF: A. CANBERRA 1033  
1B. STATE 108966

¶1. (SBU) Lloyd Brodrick, Iraq Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), advised poloff November 17 that a representative from AusAID, the Australian government's overseas aid agency, is currently in the middle of a two-week fact-finding mission to Iraq to study possible Australian cooperation with U.S. PRTs there. Broderick said AusAID, which does not have a permanent presence in Baghdad, is working closely with DFAT on the assessment, and is expected to report back to DFAT and AusAID on the outcome of his trip, including planned discussions with the U.S. Embassy and military personnel.

¶2. (SBU) Following the AusAID representative's report, DFAT will forward a recommendation on Australia's participation in PRTs to the Foreign Minister for decision. Broderick demurred on providing a timeframe for the decision, however, noting DFAT's efforts were now primarily focused on the need to negotiate a bilateral SOFA with the Iraqi government.

MCCALLUM